credit is, however, not available when the producing small-scale unit avails itself of complete exemption and pays no excise duty. Representation have been received from the small-scale units stating that in these circumstances the user industry would prefer to buy their requirements of inputs from those small scale units which pay duty rather than those which are fully exempt. After due consideration, the Government feels that the interest of the small-scale sector as a whole are well served by the existing MODVAT Scheme and, as such, the scheme does not require any change in substance.

Probationary officers allotted to punjab and Sind bank

2039. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of candidates were examined and recruited for the posts of Probationary Officers in nationalised banks in 1982/83;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Punjab and Sind Bank were allocated 290 officers JMGS-I in 1982 and 25 officers JMGS-I in 1983;

(c) if so, the number of officers from each batch confirmed so far; and

(d) how many officers still remain to be confirmed and what are the reasons for delay in their confirmation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Public Sector Banks place their indents with various Banking Service Recruitment Boards which conduct recruitment test every year. Several nationalised banks have reported that they were allotted Probationary Officers in 1982/83.

(c) and (d) Punjab and Sind Banks has advised that no officer of 1982 and 1983 batches, who are working presntly in the bank remains to be confirmed.

Raids on Newspaper owners and journalists

2040. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain raids were carried out on the premises of Newspaper owners and their correspondents/journalists recently in Madras, Bombay and Dehi;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of these raids;

(c) whether these raids were in connection with publication of some official documents in the papers owned by them or published in their papers; and

(d) what are the findings of these raids and whether any penal action has been taken against the paper owners or their Editors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Searches were conducted during the investigation of a case registered under the Officials Secrets Act against Shri Gurumurthy of Indian Express and others. The investigation of the case has not yet been completed.

Setting up of Smal Scale Industrial Development Fund by IDBI

2041. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Industiral Development Bank of India (IDBI) has set up a small scale industrial develop-